



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus —

In Missouri, the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) provides financial and technical assistance to landowners, restores wetland functions and values, and improves the landscape with wetland habitats. This is a valuable program in a state where 90 percent of historical wetlands were lost to competing land uses.

Missouri's WRP features three "emphasis areas" in the central part of the state where extensive levees and drainage systems protect some bottomland and cause flooding problems on other land. The emphasis areas have been designated due to the high incidence of levees and the historical presence of wetlands and migratory bird use.

Much of the Bootheel area receives additional ranking consideration due to the significant loss of bottomland hardwoods. Efforts to reestablish these areas are under way in the restoration process.

Wetland Emphasis Teams primarily administer WRP in Missouri. They are comprised of wetland biologists, soil scientists and engineering technicians from NRCS and the Missouri Department of Conservation. They provide direct assistance to landowners for WRP and other Missouri wetland interests.



Missouri Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) continues to be a very popular program with Missouri landowners. WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

More than 145 new applications were received for consideration into the program during fiscal year (FY) 2001. These were in addition to more than 400 applicants already on the waiting list. More than \$38.3 million is required to accommodate these existing applicants. It is the goal in Missouri to provide landowners with alternative land uses for frequently flooded areas by using wetland restoration processes. A total of \$3.7 million was obligated to secure easements and restore wetlands during FY 2001. Eighteen applicants were offered into the program, and easements recorded more than 2,661 acres. Another \$499,900 was obtained during the fiscal year for flood repair and enhancement of existing easements.

Accomplishments

Seventy-two percent of the applicants accepted into the WRP this fiscal year have permanent easements. The others have 30-year easements or cost-share agreements. Permanent easements are still the favored program choice of most landowners offering land into WRP. More than 10,500 acres of restoration occurred in the State in FY 2001. Another 1,424 acres of flood-damaged wetlands were repaired, and another 1,540 acres of existing easements were enhanced with advanced wetland features. A total of 70 compatible use authorizations were compiled for landowners during FY 2001 covering almost 8,300 acres. Included in these authorizations were water level management and pool maintenance plans covering more than 3,100 acres. Another 1,140 acres of herbaceous plantings, food plots and tree plantings were also approved. Biological monitoring was accomplished on approximately 25,000 acres of existing easements during the fiscal year.

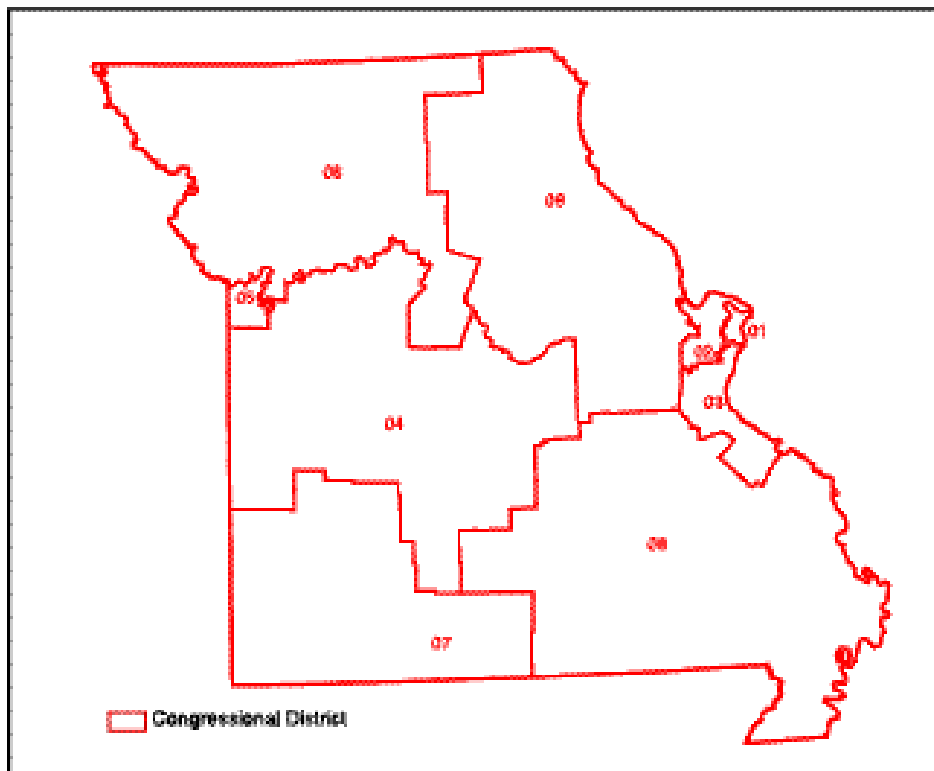
Program Benefits

Missouri has 582 WRP easements recorded covering 85,634 acres. Along with other Federal and State agencies' programs, WRP has accounted for over 26 percent of the wetlands within the 500-year flood plain located along reaches of the Missouri River. The WRP also provides significant financial support for wetland restoration and enhancement within the State. It has provided critical migratory bird habitat as well as distribution of these habitats and wetland restorations as outlined in the Missouri Wetland Management Plan developed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The program contributes greatly toward offsetting the loss of 90 percent of historical wetlands in the State, and provides key habitat for many threatened and endangered species. It also provides land use alternatives to Missouri landowners with flood-prone agricultural tracts. Missouri citizens are just now recognizing the water quality benefits of wetlands in which a major contributing partner is the WRP.

State contacts

Terry Cosby, Asst. State Conservationist, (573) 876-0900, terry.cosby@mo.usda.gov
Kevin Dacey, Wetland Wildlife Biologist, (573) 876-9356, kevin.dacey@mo.usda.gov

Missouri Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Missouri Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 4	\$418,349	5	\$9,429,823	52
District 6	\$3,259,067	12	\$15,531,773	137
District 7	\$0	0	\$43,488	1
District 8	\$26,020	1	\$5,666,071	32
District 9	\$0	0	\$8,012,727	32
State Totals	\$3,703,436	18	\$38,683,882	254

Source: Missouri NRCS, data through 4th quarter FY 2001.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.